(d) and (e) To universalize access to secondary education and to improve its quality, a centrally sponsored scheme called Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) has been launched in March 2009 by the Central Government. The scheme envisages enhancing the enrollment ratio to 75% for classes IX-X within 5 years by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance of every habitation, improving quality of education imparted at secondary level through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms, removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers, universal access to secondary education by 2017, and universal retention by 2020.

Students in higher education

†225. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the current average of the students entering higher education in the country is 12.4 per cent only;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether this average, is below world average;

(d) if so, the average at world level; and

(e) the time-bound targets set by Government to increase this average and plans worked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education as a percentage of the population cohort in the age group of 18-23 years is 12.4% based on 2007 enrolment data.

(c) and (d) As per the data obtained from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) website, the corresponding world average of GER in higher education is 26%. The Eleventh Plan aims to achieve GER of 15% by 2011-12 & target of 21% by 2016-17.

(e) During the Eleventh Plan establishment of Central Universities in hitherto uncovered States has been envisaged. 15 New Central Universities have been notified on 15.1.2009 and a second Central University has been established in Jammu Division of the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU) has been established for facilitating and promoting studies in areas concerned with the way of life of the tribal population in the country.

A new Regional Centre of the IGNTU has been inaugurated in Manipur. 374 model degree colleges in the districts having GER lower than national level with the Centre-State funding in the ratio of 1:1 for Special Category States and 1:2 for other States has also been proposed for which the

†Original notice of the question was received in HindiUniversity Grants Commission (UGC) has invited